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Editorial

Asian Integration and its Role of Shipping and Logistics

Selected Papers from

The 8th International Conference of Asian Shipping and Logistics (ICASL 2015)

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ICASL is an annual international event devoted to shipping and logistics studies. It aims to provide a platform for academics, researchers, policy makers, specialists, and practitioners working in ports, shipping, aviation transportation, and logistics. The theme of the 2015 conference was “Asian Integration and its Role in Shipping and Logistics.” The sub-issues were related to integration in Asian countries, maritime shipping, supply chain management and logistics, sea transport and transportation technology, and Asian logistics and sea transport (recent trends and future perspectives). The 8th International Conference of Asian Shipping and Logistics (ICASL 2015) was held on June 25–26, 2015 in Ha Noi, Vietnam. The conference was jointly organized by the Korean Association of Shipping and Logistics, Inc. and the Japan-Mekong Regional Logistics Training Center of Vietnam Maritime University.

The following special issue is devoted to the best papers selected from the ICASL 2015, Vietnam. After a review process, six papers were accepted for inclusion in this special issue. They represent a well-balanced mix of topics suggested by the conference theme. An overview of these seven papers follows.

The authors Y. S. Ha, K. J. Chung, and J. S. Seo contributed a paper

entitled *An Analysis of Korea–ASEAN Trade and its Implications for the Shipping Industry in Korea*. Although ASEAN is Korea’s second largest trading partner, few studies focus on the bilateral trading relationship. Using the error correction model framework, this study estimates trade elasticity for the period from 1998 to 2014. The results show that the relationship between Korea and the five ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand) achieves equilibrium in the long run.

The paper, *Ship Safety Policy Recommendations for Korea: Application of System Dynamics* by Z. W. Jeon, Y. Wang, and G. T. Yeo, aims to demonstrate and quantify the factors that influence ship safety, analyzing shipping accidents in relation to political factors, and proposing policy recommendations based on System Dynamics for both Korea’s government and its marine industry. After carrying out a sensitivity analysis, the government should use its limited budget to improve the functioning of “maritime safety management systems” and the “marine transportation environment.”

The paper, *An Investigation of the Vietnamese Shipping Industry and Policy Recommendations for Profound Participation into ASEAN*

Integration by T. T. Nguyen, suggests that Vietnam's shipping policies could strengthen shipping firms, enabling them to cope with competition in the ASEAN single market. The following policies are recommended: increasing international cooperation in the shipping industry, participating in international conventions and transport agreements, encouraging economic stakeholders to invest in Vietnamese fleets, and reforming administrative procedures in the maritime transport field.

Study on Economic Regulation of Collaborative Strategies among Container Shipping Companies Following Repeal of European Union Regulation 4056/86 was presented by R. Nair. This study aims to explore the arguments adopted by major jurisdictions, including the U.S. Federal Maritime Commission, the European Commission, and the Ministry of Commerce of China, with regard to the P3 alliance. This paper explains the strategies adopted by competition regulatory authorities in interpreting horizontal collaboration in the industry.

The paper, *Core Competences of River Ports: Case Study of Pearl River Delta* by H. H. L. Li and T. L. Yip, illustrates its argument by using the example of a river port; there are very few studies of river or feeder ports. The authors use the "Balanced Scorecard" to identify the core competences of river and feeder ports. For river ports, the two core competences are "the capacity to value employee and organization improvement" and "national and municipal government support."

In the last paper in this special issue, *Towards Sustainable ASEAN Port Development: Challenges and Opportunities for Vietnamese Ports*, the authors, S. Y. Roh, V. V. Thai, and Y.D.Wong aim to explore the main factors shaping sustainable port development through confirmatory in-depth interviews with port authorities. The authors propose that all of the criteria used in optimization operation planning, internal social programs, and external evaluation collaboration should be considered for the sustainable development of ports.

Overall, this collection of papers addresses Asian shipping and logistics by analyzing the potential for trade elasticity in the Korea-ASEAN trading relationship, proposing improvements to Korean ship safety, investigating Vietnam's shipping industry, exploring collaborative strategies among container shipping companies in transnational alliances, evaluating the core competences of river ports, and examining sustainable ASEAN port development. The papers represented in this issue are informative and constructive, offering both a deeper understanding of—and the inspiration to continually improve—contemporary Asian shipping and logistics.

Acknowledgement

As the guest editor of ICASL 2015, I would like to thank the scientific committee, local organizers, authors, and reviewers involved in the editorial process of this special issue for their great support. I would also like to thank the Managing Editor, J. S. Lee and the entire team of this special issue for the excellent support they have provided.

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